

REMARKS

The Office action of January 9, 2008, has been carefully considered.

The specification has been amended to add a reference to the prior PCT application, and to delete the references to the claims.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Harris in view of Carman and Benderev.

Claims 1-12 have been canceled and rewritten as new Claims 13-25, in proper form for U.S. practice.

Claim 13 is directed to a training device which is constructed and arranged for placement externally against the human body directly or indirectly between two ischial bones in a seated position, and comprising a pressure sensor unit, which is compressible at least on a side facing the pelvic floor and expandable on a side not facing the pelvic floor, and which comprises a flexible body which contains a gas, gel or fluid material and is held on a surface facing the pelvic floor by a non-expandible shell-like body. A force transducer is coupled to the pressure sensor unit on the expandible side thereof, and a feedback unit is connected to the force transducer to generate a feedback signal.

The shell-like unit is described in more detail in new Claim 25, where it is stated that this body comprises a rigid base plate constructed and arranged to be positioned opposite to the pelvic floor and one end portion which is open and at which the pressure sensor unit is coupled to the force transducer.

The Harris reference is cited in the present specification and includes a tubular body which expands elastically after compression. While the tubular body appears to be similar to the tubular body used according to the claimed invention, Harris does not disclose a shell in which

the tubular body is placed and does not define precisely where the body can be compressed or expanded. The device is worn directly against the skin of the user.

While Harris does disclose a feedback means, it does not disclose a pressure transducer, and Carman has been cited for this purpose. However, the pressure transducer of Carman is placed "at an appropriate position on the person" or is inserted into the body. While an inflatable pessary is mentioned, the Carman reference has no drawings and does not specifically disclose how the pressure is to be measured. Moreover, the measurement disclosed is an electromyographic measurement, which is a direct measurement of the electromyographic activity of the muscles, and not a measurement of volumetric changes caused by tensioning of the muscles.

At column 1, lines 42 et seq, Carman discloses first making a measurement, then having the patient do exercise and taking a new measurement after the exercise is completed. There is no disclosure or suggestion of arranging an expandable pressure unit on a side not facing the pelvic floor.

The Benderev reference is also discussed in the present specification. The reference discloses a saddle-type element having a built-in control and stimulation means which is placed against the body and which can exert selective pressure at various sites. The purpose of the invention, as disclosed at column 4, lines 10-13, is to provide a signal for the patient to perform the appropriate muscle strengthening exercises for target muscle groups. This is not feedback responsive to the patient's activity, but rather is just a reminder system. No pressure sensor is disclosed or suggested.

Thus, the references taken in combination do not disclose or suggest a pressure sensor unit which is disposed within a

shell and which is expandable on one side thereof and connected at that side to a force transducer, with the force transducer connected to a feedback unit to generate a feedback signal in response to patient exercises. Withdrawal of this rejection is accordingly requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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